

REMARKS

Applicant confirms with appreciation the receipt of the Notice of Allowability for the above-identified Application. Claims 1-13, 16-19, and 21-28 are pending in this application and have been allowed.

Applicants decline the Examiner's amendment to the claims and are presenting appropriate claim amendments herewith that are identical to the Proposed Amendment submitted to the Examiner on May 31, 2005. In particular, claims 1, 6, 8, and 13 are amended. The substance of the changes to independent claims 1 and 8 remain the same as those presented by examiner's amendment, however, applicants have added underlining to show the additions to these claims. Dependent claims 6 and 13 are also amended to correct antecedent issues. The Examiner is requested to approve and enter these claim amendments.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In reply to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that patentability is based on the subject matter of the claims as a whole. That is, the patentability of the claims rests on the combination of recited elements and limitations. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 8, 21, and 24 are all separately patentable from each other and are patentable for the subject matter specifically recited as a whole in each of those claims.

Customer Number
00909

Application Serial No.: 09/481,511
Attorney Docket No.: 042846-0313289
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.312

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975 (Ref. No. 042846-0313289). The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account. These comments are being filed before payment of the Issue Fee.

Dated: August 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Sean L. Ingram
Registration No.: 48,283

Customer No.
00909

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, Virginia 22102
703-905-2000